A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, March 27. 1708.

We are now entring on a new Volume of this Work, and a new Occasion presenting, the Method will for a while be a little changed—The Preface and Title to our last Volume will be in our next.

I Never purposed to turn the *Review* into a *News-Paper*—But since the Intelligence, I have establish'd in *Scotland*, enables me to speak sometimes what every Body does not hear, and I know you are impatient to hear how things go in that Country, while this particular Circumstance attends that Part of this Island, I shall, to oblige you Gentlemen, furnish you with some Accounts of Things, as they come to me from good Hands, especially as I am supply'd with Particulars, which perhaps other Papers may not so readily come at.

To give you the History of the *French* Fleets proceeding from *Dunkirk*, and the Journal of our Fleet pursuing them; to tell you they out-sail'd us, *a Thing, as much Noise as some People make of it, we all knew they could do before*; these are Things you have over and over again by every ordinary Post.

That the two Fleets were in View; that the *English* endeavour'd to oblige the Enemy to engage, but could not; that they did fall in upon their Rear, and that the Ship *Salisbury* is fallen into our Hands; this you all know already.

That we pursued the Enemy, till we saw there was no Hopes of coming up with them; cruised so long off and on upon the *Eastern* Coast, till blowing Weather and a great Sea going, our Admiral thought fit to bear up for the *Firth*, and come to an Anchor in *Leith* Road; these are all Things you are furnish'd with in every Days Papers over and over.

I shall not embellish my Discourse here with the Censures, those People, *who perhaps*

Days cannot say, what else they would have had done, pass on our Naval Management, who are pleas'd not to approve of Sir *Geo. Bing* coming back again, or with the Clamours fomented by others, at not cleaning our Ships, tho' it appears almost all of them are clean, just come out of the Docks, and in as good Sailing Posture as they can be put in.

Nor shall I trouble you with an Account of a young Man found among the Prisoners, who is disguised, weeps constantly, but will not tell you who he is, and that therefore the People in *Scotland* will have it be the young Thing, they call King; that there is taken on Board the Ship a vast Quantity of Plate, Money, Arms, &c. and a Cloak with the Star on it, &c. tho' I own, I have all these Particulars in Letters from several Hands. But these are Things, every Body will read you Lectures upon, as well as I, and perhaps affert more than I will venture upon. I will not say, who this Person may be that is disguised —— But I must say this, that if it were the Pretender himself, the News, I think, is too good to be so long concealed, if the Publick knew it—— And it can never be possible it can be so, and not one of the Prisoners in the Ship discover it; so till we have a farther Account of it, it must pass with me for a *Chimera*, if it be otherwise; that is, a Story tells so well, it will soon be its own Messenger, and tell it self.

It is true, these Rumours are Things our Dividers are very busie about, and filling our Heads with Murmurs and Discontents from; yet I say nothing to them at present, but am pursuing another Point.

At the first Appearance of the Preparations at *Dunkirk*, and the Knowledge of its being design'd for *Scotland*; Nothing has filled our Thought so much as the Supposition of the Encouragement, the *French* must have had from *Scotland* for this Attempt, and the great Expectation of a general Revolt there upon the first Arrival of their Fleet: Let me give you some Proofs of this being the general Opinion.

1. The House of Lords mention it in their Address to her Majesty, as a just Inference drawn from the Boldness of invading us with so contemptible a Force.
2. The *French* themselves have boasted of it in the circular Letter written by his most Christian King to the *Swiss-Cantons*, and other of his Allies.
3. All the Accounts from on Board agree in it, that several *Scots* Gentlemen have been in *France* to invite, &c.

Now upon this general Suggestion, that there has been an Invitation to the *French* to make this Attempt, and that at their Landing there would be a great Appearance of a strong Party to joyn them; all the Doubt that remain'd was, who were the People—who were the Party that would embrace this Invader.

Nor were the People, that were the forwardest to suggest these things, backward at all in owning, who they thought were the Men, and here has appear'd a great Deal of that Temper, which Mr. *Dryden* call'd, *much Malice mingled with but little Wit*; I'll descend a little to Particulars.

Who are the People that should joyn with this Invasion, is the Question?

Who but the *Presbyterians*, *says a High-Flyer that loves Railing like any Rebearsal*, who but the *Presbyterians*? And three Things argue it.

1. They are so violently against the Union, that they did not care who came to do it, nor at what Price it was done, so that they were deliver'd from a Thing they have such an Aversion to——
2. They universally declare against the *Abjuration-Oath*; and who can be so readily suppos'd to joyn with the Pretender, as those that refuse to abjure him?
3. Presbyterianism and Rebellion are synonimous terms; and to talk of a *Presbyterian* and of a Rebel, is but to speak of the same Person; Rebellion is their Principle; and the *Cameronians* to this Day do not own the QUEEN or Government, nor ever did own it.

From

From hence the Rumour has grown to such a Height, that nothing has been reported as more certain, than that these must have been the People, who have invited over this pretended Prince; that as soon as ever they saw his Face, they would appear for him, that the *French* would never have thought of coming to *Edinburgh*, if it had not been so, and the *Presbyterians* are the Men; and thus the World run away with the thing as most certain.

Now to set this Matter in a true Light, and do Justice to all Parties, I shall enquire first into the Matters of Fact, and examine a little, who are the Men most likely to act this Part, and on what Foundation, for on this Enquiry will depend much of our future Right judging in this Case; perhaps I may afterwards enquire into the Reasons of our Suspicions, and prove also, that the *Presbyterian* Party ought not so much as to have been suspected; that several other Parties gave sufficient Ground of Suspicion, and that these did not; then I shall enquire who rais'd this Report upon the Kirk Party, and to serve what End it was done.

But before I do this, I shall give you an Abstract of a Letter I have from *Scotland* on this very Head—— And as this Letter will be a brief History of the present State of Affairs there, it will suit with my Design of giving you every Paper a short Relation of what shall happen in that Country during this Transaction—Which however it threatens *Britain* with strong Convulsions, may I hope be diverted without letting us Blood.

The Letter I have receiv'd is from such Authority, and so good Hands, and so shall everything I shall take the Liberty to publish in this Affair, that I venture to say it may be depended upon; as to my own Observations I shall take Care to distinguish them always from Matter of *Relation*, and leave them to your Censure.

Letter from Edinburgh.

SIR,

" LAST Week we were put to our " little Wits End by frequent Allarms " of a *French* Invasion, but did not dream " they would have surpriz'd us so soon, when " by a sudden Express we got Notice of " their being within the *Firth*; but providentially that Day (*Saturday*) the Wind " turn'd *Westward*, so that they behov'd to " cast Anchor near *Creal*, resolving to work " it up the next Tyde: Some say, they " design'd to have landed their Men at " *Burnt-Island*, others at *Cramond-Island*, 4 " Miles above *Edinburgh*, others at *Aberlady*, and the *Pans*, &c. Mean while " Admiral *Byng* with his Squadron came up " to them with the Primest of his Sailors " by Four in the Afternoon, and put them " all in a Consternation; all the *English* " could do, was to come with at some of " their Rear; they pursued them Firing, " till near 7 at Night; next Morning they had another small Skirmish with " some of their straggling Rear. They disabled one of about 64 Guns, took another " of 50 Guns with near 300 Sailors and 300 " Marines, with a Lieutenant General and " some Persons of Note, and then came " back into our Road. On *Tuesday* Afternoon the E. of *Leven*, our Commander " in Chief with several others, went down " to *Leith* to wait upon and congratulate " Sir *Geo. Byng* and other Officers. The " Admiral seem'd to be a little reserv'd in " answering some Questions, particularly as " to some Prisoners of Note, which makes " many fansie to this Hour, that the Pretender is among them; however the Earl " return'd very hearty and well pleas'd with " the Admirals Conduct and Honesty. I can " give you no farther Account of the Enemy, the Admiral is sending out Scouts " every Day, but can can get no Advice " where they are.

" But the Design of this Letter is to undeceive you and all good Men, as to your " Fears about the *West* Country, and other " Anti-Unioners, who all along, till of late, " did likewise startle us here. But these 3 " or 4 Days by-gone, they have been sending in to *Edinburgh* one Messenger and " Letter after another, upbraiding us for " our harsh and unbecoming Thoughts of " them, and of any Surmizes, as if we jealoused them with countenancing any Invasion. That tho' for Reasons which

" were

" were well known, they were averſe from " the Union, and were not afraid or aſham'd " to own their being ſo, or their Reaſons for " it; yet when it comes to a foreign Invaſion, " and a *Popiſh* Pretender, they will match " the beſt of us for Loyalty to their " QUEEN, and give a Proof of their Zeal " for our Holy Religion, as Eſtabliſh'd by " Law, and Confirm'd by the Union, as " briskly as any; and therefore let us know, " they only wait for Orders from the Go- " verement to act accordingly. And to let " you ſee the Loyalty, Honeſty and Religi- " ous Reſolutions of the *Presbyterian* Party " in *Scotland*, I mean *North Britain*, I am to " inform you, there is a Correſpondence " ſettled through all the *Presbyterians* in " the *Weſt*, &c. to give Advertiſement to " one another in any Emergent; that they " may be ready to joyn with the QUEEN's " Forces, and ſupport the Government " both Civil and Sacred. And in this City, " all good Men have been lifting themſelves, " and arming to ſecure the Peace hereа- " bouts. And all, who have any Money, " are ſubſcribing to maintain each, ſome " 20, 15, 10, 6, 4, 3, 2, or 1, according " to their Ability, for 40 Days each at 6 *d.* " a Day, if need be, and to have them ho- " neſt Fellows from the Country, who have " not to maintain themſelves, and have no- " minated the E. of *Leven* to be their Col- " lonel, which he very chearfully has ac- " cepted of, and Collonel *Maxiel* in *Gallo- " way*, a good and brisk Man, to be their " Lieutenant Collonel. Nor are theſe Peo- " ple to be reckon'd as common *Militia*, " ſince we are putting them into ſuch " Form, and under ſuch Officers, as ſhall " ſoon make them capable of their Buſineſs, " and we doubt not their doing their Duty " on Occaſion; this Regiment raiſing by " our City, we hope to compleat in a " Week more to 1400 Men in two Battalli- " ons, and if her Majeſty's Occaſions require " it, and the *French* Pretender ſhould puſh " his Project any farther, her Majeſty may " depend upon 12 or 15000 Men to be rai- " ſed in the *Weſt* in the ſame Manner, of " whoſe Loyalty to her Perſon, and Zeal " in this Cauſe, there will be no Reaſon to " doubt: I hope, You in *South Britain* will " do us Juſtice on this Occaſion, and reſtore " us to your former good Opinion, which " I perceive by Miſrepreſentations has " been of late much diminiſhed.

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